



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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Ref: 8RA

The Honorable Jon Tester
U.S. Senate
Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Anaconda Aluminum Co Columbia Falls Reduction Plant Site
EPA Site ID: MTD057561763

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), of January 29, 2016, regarding the Anaconda Aluminum Co Columbia Falls Reduction Plant Site near Columbia Falls, Montana. I assure you that EPA is committed to returning the former aluminum plant and surrounding area to conditions that are safe for human health and the environment.

As you know, EPA is overseeing a remedial investigation (RI) being conducted by Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (CFAC) to identify the nature and extent of contamination at the Site. The RI will help determine potential cleanup actions required to make the Site viable for future economic benefit. EPA will continue to work with local and state stakeholders and engage the public to ensure they understand the Superfund process and options. As part of this effort, EPA will provide information to the community about EPA resources and programs that may provide technical assistance to help people understand the environmental contamination issues at the Site.

We are planning another public meeting in early April and will notify your office of the details when they are finalized. In addition, EPA will conduct community interviews in the coming months with key stakeholders, local media, and interested citizens to identify additional opportunities for public engagement. Later this year, EPA will prepare a community involvement plan that will outline our engagement strategy for the Site over the next few years. We will share a draft of that plan with your office when it is prepared.

Again, thank you for your request that EPA continue its outreach to the community and local leaders. Please feel free to contact me if you have further concerns or questions. Your staff is also welcome to contact our Remedial Program Manager for the Site, Mike Cirian (406.293.6194, cirian.mike@epa.gov), or our Community Involvement Coordinator, Robert Moler (406.457.5032; moler.robert@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Shaun L. McGrath

Regional Administrator

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